

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 27 are pending in the application. The Examiner objected to claims 7, 10, 22 and 25 and rejected claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-21, 23, 24, 26 and 27.

The Provisional Double Patenting Rejection

At item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-6, 8-9, 11-21, 23-24, and 26-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 7, 13-14, 17-18, 21-26, 28, 34-35, and 38-39 of co-pending Application No. 09/649,946. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

The Claim Objections

At item 5 on page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 7, 10, 22 and 25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that these claims are now in allowable condition since the claim rejections have been overcome with the filing of the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer.

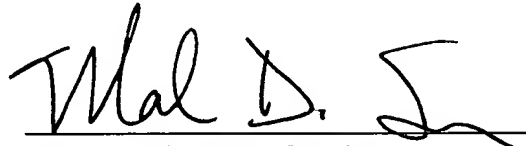
Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of the claims and issue an early Notice of Allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted

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Date


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